

Participation and Usage

Sixteen states are using NPADO for service delivery; fifteen states and one Canadian province are in the process of planning to use NPADO; and fourteen states have shown interest in using NPADO to deliver online document assembly. In 2007, NPADO.org delivered over 133,000 interviews and generated over 76,000 documents. This is a 27 percent increase in interviews and a 61 percent increase in documents compared to 2006.

California

The California Administrative Office of the Courts (CA AOC), through a partnership with LawHelpCalifornia.org, is using online document assembly to improve their self-help workshops and clinics. With help from JusticeCorps volunteers, self-represented litigants (SRLs) use document assembly to fill in their basic information (names, addresses, birthdates) on their forms. The SRLs then participate in a class, where a staff attorney introduces the legal issues involved in their cases and helps the SRLs to fill out the rest of their forms by hand. Currently, this project is being piloted in a few jurisdictions; however, there are plans to expand to more locations.

Idaho

Idaho Legal Aid Services (ILAS) and the Idaho Supreme Court are collaborating to create online document assembly content. This year they developed several Spanish-language interviews, which help Spanish speakers fill out English-language forms. This content is available at http://idaholegalaid.org/Home/PublicWeb/SelfHelpTemp/Spanish_Index.

Also, the Idaho Supreme Court, with the support of ILAS, is tracking how many NPADO.org-generated forms are filed. The Idaho Supreme has assigned a code to each type of form. When a form is filed, this code is recorded in the court case management system. From June 2007, when the project was implemented, until September 2007, over 584 NPADO.org-generated forms have been filed.

Illinois

Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) was one of the first programs to develop document assembly content for use with NPADO.org. Recently, ILAO received a grant from the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, the Illinois IOLTA program. This grant will fund the development of additional document assembly content for legal aid advocates and pro bono attorneys.

Kentucky

The Jefferson Family Courts, the Legal Aid Society and the Louisville Pro Bono Consortium initiated a project in Jefferson County to develop forms and instructions for pro se litigants to file simple, uncontested divorce petitions. In February 2007, with funding from the local bar foundation, Legal Aid Society used those forms to develop document assembly content for simple divorces where no children are involved. In the coming year, Legal Aid Society will replicate this initial program for additional court proceedings as well as explore whether the various local rules in the numerous judicial districts can be standardized to allow for development of simple, uniform forms and interactive programs.

New York

In New York, Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LAWNY) and Legal Services for New York City (LSNY) are working hand-in-hand with the courts to create a highly distributed authorship model. They have formed a developer community out of attorneys in legal services programs, court personnel, and technologists. This partnership establishes a firm cooperation between the courts and legal services. This is a ground-breaking joint effort and a new direction in the method of developing interactive pro-se tools.